

Foreword

This is not just another update of the California Water Plan. As the first update of the 21st century, it represents a fundamental shift in how people look at water resources management. It recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach and the need to work cooperatively in order to succeed in managing the state's water resources. It looks at water as a resource whose management involves many responsibilities and raises many issues. It recognizes that there are no silver bullets for managing water.

Past updates assessed California's water needs, evaluated water supplies, and tried to quantify a gap between them. For the first time, the state's water plan includes a strategic plan with goals, recommendations, and actions for meeting the challenges of sustainable water uses and reliable water supplies in the face of uncertainty. This water plan describes short-term and long-term actions that can be implemented at the state and regional level, and it identifies a portfolio of 25 resource management strategies that can be used to sustain California's communities, economy, and environment. It is a roadmap for meeting our water demands of 2030.

Integrated regional water management is the future for California. It ensures that regions prepare for uncertainties by diversifying their water portfolios with multiple strategies. It ensures that we pursue water management that includes a wide range of local objectives and strives to meet all future water demands--urban, agricultural, and environmental. Integrated regional programs are most successful in providing reliable water supplies when they use water efficiently, protect water quality, and restore the environment.

California still depends on vast statewide water management systems that include physical facilities and statewide water management programs. With maintenance, rehabilitation, and improvements, these systems can continue to provide clean and affordable water, protect lives and property from flooding, withstand drought, and sustain our environmental values.

California Water Plan Update 2005 is the product of a collaborative process that brought together the Department of Water Resources, a 65-member advisory committee representing urban, agricultural, and environmental interests, a 350-member extended review forum, and 2,000 interested members of the public. The result is a plan that includes the very best ideas for meeting our water challenges.

The conclusion of this water plan is clear: Californians can meet their water demands through the year 2030 by making the right choices and investments. The Department of Water Resources will work with State policymakers, local and regional entities, and others to take the actions needed to meet the state's water needs now and in the years to come.



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